

EASTER FLOWERS WILL COME HIGH

Continued Bad Weather
Makes Good Market.

SCARCITY OF BLOSSOMS

Violets Will Sell From \$1 to \$3 a Hundred—Roses at Most Any Price.

The Washington girl who can display a huge bunch of violets on Easter Sunday or be happy in the possession of a cluster of American Beauty roses, will do well to appreciate the thoughtfulness of the man who sends them, for it will undoubtedly make a deep hole in one corner of his pocket.

Flowers are scarce this season because of the continued bad weather, and their prices are even now beginning to soar in anticipation of the Easter time. This is one of the seasons when the maid would rather have violets, lilacs, or roses in preference to the finest box of candy the confectioner could put up. It is the time for flowers in all the year, and if she does not get them it isn't really Easter, after all.

Demand Increased.
Florists of Washington attribute the rise in the price of all kinds of flowers to the scarcity of blossoms and the increased demand. That they will get the price they ask is assured, for in many years past it has been almost impossible to supply the orders at Easter.

Easter lilies will be sold from \$2 to \$6 a dozen. It is not unlikely that this price will be greatly increased, as there is no flower in greater demand for church decorations, and the supply this year promises to be especially inadequate.

Violets, the prize flower of the season, will sell from \$1 to \$3 a hundred. The single violet is the choice of the Easter girl, and these are sold a little in advance of the double flower.

Roses at All Prices.
Roses are of so many different varieties that they will be obtainable at almost any price. One dollar is the lowest figure quoted, and the stately American Beauty will bring something in the neighborhood of \$12.

Another popular flower is the white lilac, which is usually sold for \$2 in the pot, and \$3 a dozen. Carnations are offered in many different shades and sizes and bring from 75 cents to \$3 a dozen. Tulips and hyacinths can be bought with little expense, and go to make up some of the prettiest spring boxes a girl would want. Potted palms, hydrangeas, and azaleas will be on the market for various prices, ranging from \$2 up.

"International Pitch" Standard at St. Louis

Decision of the Musical Director Will Debar
Many Organizations From Participating in
Band Contests at the Exposition.

Trouble is brewing for the bands which desire to enter the musical contests at the St. Louis Exposition. The cause of it is the stand taken recently by George W. Stewart, director of music at the World's Fair, that all competing organizations must tune their instruments to international pitch. This is, furthermore, the outcome of a controversy which has lasted for more than twenty years between advocates of the international and those of what is known as the "American" pitch.

Pitch is determined by the total position of "A" on the scale, and is adjusted by the number of vibrations in a second. The nearer the pitch is to the human voice the truer it is regarded to be. The American pitch is almost a half tone higher than the international, and is believed to be more brilliant, while the international is softer and better adapted to symphony and operatic music.

Mr. Stewart's decision will mean a great

outlay of money to the bands which desire to participate and whose instruments are tuned to the American pitch. It will bar army bands and the majority of amateur organizations, thus practically limiting the contest to professional bands—a condition which American musicians oppose.

The controversy regarding pitch began about twenty years ago when argument became so strong that leaders of bands and instrument makers all over the world realized that a general pitch should be adopted to which all instruments should be attuned, and thus preserve a standard of tune. By a vote of those interested, the international pitch was decided upon. Sousa, Thomas, Damrosch, and the late Anton Seidl adopted the international pitch. Its vibrations are 435 to a second while the American pitch registers 452 vibrations a second.

It is doubtful whether, in view of Mr. Stewart's decision, any concessions will be made to the bands not tuned to the international pitch, and for this reason, many organizations are expected to withdraw from the contest.

PLANS FOR DEPRESSING STREETS IN TERMINAL

H Street and Florida Avenue Will Be
Sunken But Little.

Engineer Commissioner Biddle has approved the plans submitted by the engineers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, showing the lines of the proposed grading of H, K, L, and M Streets and Florida Avenue, where these thoroughfares will have to be depressed on account of the railway passing over them, as contemplated in the plans for the terminal improvements in connection with the new Union Station work.

The plans show that the level of H Street and Florida Avenue will have to be changed but slightly. K, L, and M Streets, however, will have to be lowered to a considerable depth.

TO HIDE HIS IDENTITY.

PORT WAYNE, March 19.—It has developed that a man who has just been released from jail, after serving a term upon a charge of vagrancy, was a United States Secret Service officer, who preferred to do time rather than reveal his identity. The officers refuse to disclose the identity of the man.

HORSES RAN INTO CROWD AT A CHICAGO FIRE

Three Persons Injured by Being Pushed
Down Basement Steps.

CHICAGO, March 19.—Three persons were injured, firemen narrowly escaped death, and a property loss estimated at \$75,000 resulted from a fire which destroyed the Dawson building in West Washington Street, last night.

A portion of the west wall fell, frightening the horses attached to a fire patrol and they ran a block before they were stopped. The runaway caused confusion among the spectators and they crowded against each other, throwing three down the steps leading to a basement. They were badly injured.

Members of one of the engine companies who entered the windows of the third floor found their retreat cut off by flames, and came near losing their lives before they were rescued by other firemen.

The fire started on the second floor in the workshop of the Machine Perfecting Manufacturing Company from crossed electric wires. After a fight of three hours the fire was under control. For a time it threatened the entire block, which is occupied by manufacturing plants.

BROKEN "DEADEYE" CAUSED BIG FIRE

Cigarette Fell Through
Grating in Baltimore.

LOSS COMMITTEE SO FINDS

No Blame Attaches to Hurst & Co., in
Whose Building Flames
Started.

BALTIMORE, Md., March 19.—The absence of a piece of glass no bigger than a silver dollar from an iron grating of the kind used to let light through pavements into cellars, and a lighted cigar or cigarette are officially declared the cause of the great fire, that reduced the business section of Baltimore to a prairie of debris.

The committee that adjusted the insurance on the loss of merchandise by the firm of John E. Hurst & Co., in whose building, at Hopkins Place and Liberty Street, the fire started, says its members, are satisfied the fire started in the basement and finally set off an automatic alarm. The committee then gives this opinion as to the origin of the fire:

"At different times some of the 'dead-eyes' had been broken in the sidewalk vault lights and had been replaced. We assume that there was one more broken at the time of the fire, and that the high winds that prevailed on Saturday night must have carried a lighted cigarette, cigar, or match through one of these holes into the basement."

"The stock directly under the vault lights consisted of blankets and cotton goods in cases, the covers being removed, and it is our opinion that the fire dropped into one or more of these cases, smoldering until the alarm was given, filling the building with smoke, and directly the doors were opened by the firemen rushed to the top of the building through the shaft and caused the explosion of congested smoke."

"The fire has always been particular in precautions against fire and had complied with every requirement made by the insurance companies. There were no goods carried by the assured which would be susceptible to spontaneous combustion, and in the absence of any positive information to the contrary the committee assumes that the fire must have originated in the manner above stated."

Rapid Progress Made On National Cathedral

Great Impetus Given by Harriet Lane Johnston's Donation—Founders' Certificate Plan Finds Favor.

Progress on the National Cathedral of

SS. Peter and Paul has been rapid during the past year, owing to the great impetus given the movement by several handsome donations, notably \$300,000 from the late Harriet Lane Johnston for the founding of a Memorial Choir Boys' School, the erection of the Baptistry and Jordan Font, and the increased interest beginning to evince itself by the establishment of National Cathedral Associations in prominent American dioceses.

The financial statement of the Cathedral Foundation and the goodly aggregate of its assets will probably surprise the majority of Washingtonians who have not realized how the cluster of cathedral buildings has been added to and the steady growth toward the National Cathedral ideal that has been made in the past five years.

Mount Alban Tract.

On September 7, 1893, the Mount Alban tract of thirty acres, a most noble site, was acquired at a cost of \$245,000. During the following October the Peace Cross, a monument to the cessation of hostilities with Spain and the founding of the cathedral, was unveiled in the presence of President McKinley, the general convention of the church then in session in Washington, and 7,000 citizens.

The next purchase of land was the Newlands tract of three and one-third acres on May 21, 1902, at a total cost of \$24,256. The last addition to the land holdings was made when the narrow strip of land called the Thompson tract, which was needed to complete the square, was purchased on June 25, 1903, for \$22,171. The Cathedral Close now consists of over forty acres, with a frontage on five thoroughfares.

The Other Assets.

The other assets of the foundation are composed of the following items: National Cathedral School for Girls, valued at \$294,735.40. The equipment of the school from the Bruce fund was \$57,415.31; Little sanctuary and Jerusalem altar, \$4,500; Jordan font and baptistry, \$22,470.96; the Memorial Choir Boys' School (not erected as yet), \$500,000; the Peace cross, \$500; endowment canon missioner fund, \$5,000; laying out roads, filling in grounds, and necessary improvements, \$2,500.

With the estimated value of the land

the total cathedral holdings amount to \$889,521.71. The residue of the mortgage loans up to \$36,000, leaving the value at present, clear from all incumbrance, at \$774,531.67. So it is seen that the total debt is less than one-ninth the total value of the property. The mortgage is held in ninety-five \$1,000 notes, payable at any time, and an urgent appeal has been sent to churchmen to try to clear the property from mortgage by May 12, Ascension Day. No definite steps can be taken toward erecting the cathedral edifice until it is paid, as by a wise rule of the church, it cannot be consecrated until completely out of debt. The names of these donors will be inscribed on the cathedral landmark, to be erected in the cathedral close.

The Certificate Plan.
The founders' certificate plan has proved effective. By the donation of \$1 or more, so many feet of land are redeemed, and the donors given founders' certificates, duly signed, showing the number of square feet of land given and his or her name will be inscribed in a book of remembrance, to be kept in a place especially prepared for it in the chance of the future cathedral. Such a fireproof receptacle has been built in the Little sanctuary at the side of the Jerusalem altar.

This will prove a lineage book, a religious roll of honor not to be despised, and many have taken advantage of the opportunity. Its national character is emphasized by the fact that the bulk of support has come from churchmen in outside dioceses. The National Cathedral builders have built well. The project is worthy of a major place in the plans for the beautification of Washington, and in its national purpose should elicit national support.

**FOREST FIRE RAGING
IN GEORGIA DISTRICT**
AUGUSTA, Ga., March 19.—For three days a forest fire has been raging through the 124th district of this State, destroying miles of heavily timbered land, fences, and isolated houses. In some places large quantities of fertilizers have been destroyed.

The loss, so far, is well up in the thousands, and the fire is still raging. At Durst Postoffice, a very small settlement, the buildings and mills were saved by the postmistress and two little girls. Cattle and sheep, all out of pastures, are running wild over the country.

GENERAL TRADE REPORTED QUIET

Awaits the Coming of
Warmer Weather.

LABOR TROUBLES OFFSET

Conservative Action of Coal Miners
Lends Confidence to the
Situation.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Special trade advice from correspondents of the International Mercantile Agency throughout the United States chronicle interruptions and changes incidental to breaking from snow storms into a semblance of spring weather and the usual season's increase of labor disturbances.

The latter, despite their seriousness in New York, are offset by the conservative action of 100,000 soft coal miners who have decided to accept a reduction in wages. The reactionary tendency to wages also appears in lower rates for glass workers and tin mill employees, and there are rumors that the Pennsylvania is contemplating readjustments in one branch of its train service.

Drop in Prices.

Prices for wheat and cotton dropped further than many bears expected. Rains in the winter wheat belt have done much good, but more moisture is needed in Oklahoma and Kansas. The unusual accumulation of funds at New York, by which banks are strengthening against the day of Panama payments, and there are rumors that the Pennsylvania is contemplating readjustments in one branch of its train service.

Inquiry at Philadelphia. Pittsburgh, Chicago, and St. Louis shows there is a slackening in demands from banks at those cities also. On the other hand, Boston banks report no such check.

General Trade Quiet.

General trade is quiet, awaiting warmer weather, and is not especially good in New England; it is larger, except in pig iron, in Pittsburgh; smaller, owing to somewhat less in Philadelphia, and, while below other years, better than expected in Baltimore.

The entry of Pennsylvania Railroad as a buyer in the steel rail market leaves no lingering doubt that the steel and iron industries will take on renewed activity at an early day, and that prices in some varieties will be still further advanced. The sentiment in New York financial circles has greatly improved since the merger decision, and standard stocks which net 5 per cent, with long-time money at 4 1/2 per cent, are now beginning to have their natural influence.

ST. LOUIS

THE TIMES DUAL EXPOSITION CONTEST

ST. LOUIS

For Employees of the District or National Government

The Times will send the three employees of the District or National Government, who are employed in the City of Washington or District of Columbia, and who collect the greatest number respectively of Times' St. Louis Exposition coupons, to the great exposition for one week. Contest ends May 31, 1904. Send in the coupons once a week.

Government Employees' Coupon

The first coupons are for the contest between District or National Government employees exclusively, and will not be credited to anybody else. One coupon will be printed daily in the Evening Times, and five in the Sunday Times.

All Expenses to St. Louis Will Be Paid by The Times

The winners of this contest will have all their expenses, including transportation, sleeping and dining car accommodations, hotel bill for one week, entrance to grounds, etc., paid by The Times. They may visit the fair whenever they please after the close of the contest.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES		THE WASHINGTON TIMES		THE WASHINGTON TIMES		THE WASHINGTON TIMES		THE WASHINGTON TIMES	
St. Louis World's Fair Coupon		St. Louis World's Fair Coupon		St. Louis World's Fair Coupon		St. Louis World's Fair Coupon		St. Louis World's Fair Coupon	
To Exposition Contest Editor:		To Exposition Contest Editor:		To Exposition Contest Editor:		To Exposition Contest Editor:		To Exposition Contest Editor:	
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For Everybody Not Employed by District or National Government

The Times will also send the three persons not employed by the District or National Government who collect, respectively, the greatest number of miscellaneous citizens' coupons to the exposition on precisely the same conditions as those engaged in governmental work. Send in the coupons for credit at least once a week.

Miscellaneous Citizens' Coupons

The following coupons are for the contest between those not employed by the District or National Government. They will not be credited to anybody engaged in governmental work. One coupon in the Evening Times. Five in the Sunday Times.

Directions About Sending Coupons in Both Contests

When sending in more than one coupon write on the first one the number you send, so that those in charge of the contest will know that their record agrees with yours. Coupons must remain credited to the contestant who sends them in. No one will be allowed to transfer coupons to some one else later on.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES		THE WASHINGTON TIMES		THE WASHINGTON TIMES		THE WASHINGTON TIMES		THE WASHINGTON TIMES	
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To Exposition Contest Editor:		To Exposition Contest Editor:		To Exposition Contest Editor:		To Exposition Contest Editor:		To Exposition Contest Editor:	
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Yes or No.....		Yes or No.....		Yes or No.....		Yes or No.....		Yes or No.....	

ADDRESS COUPONS AND LETTERS RELATING TO CONTEST TO **MANAGER ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION CONTEST** TIMES OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.